

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 01189 161436 Z

42

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-02 H-02 INR-09 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-14

STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-12 PRS-01 SAL-01 OMB-01

NEA-10 EA-11 AF-10 ARA-11 RSR-01 /219 W

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R 161415 Z MAR 73

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8330

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ETRD, EEC, GATT

SUBJECT: EC MEDITERRANEAN POLICY

REF: A. BONN 3604 B. EC BRUSSELS 1344

1. WE ARE NOT VERY HAPPY WITH DESCRIPTION OF ONE OF PROBLEMS RE
PREFERENTIAL ARRANGEMENTS AS " GATTABILITY" OR CONSISTENCY WITH
GATT. EC' S FREE TRADE AREA ARRANGEMENTS HAVE NOT BEEN APPROVED BY
GATT AS MEETING ARTICLE 24 AND, THOUGH EC ASSERTS THE CONTRARY,
SOME OF THESE ARRANGEMENTS ARE NOT EVEN CLOSE TO MEETING CRITERIA
OF GATT. EC HAS NOT BEEN MUCH IF AT ALL CONCERNED WITH THIS.

2. WE SEE SEVERAL OBJECTIONS TO FEDREP IDEA OF TRYING TO CONSTRUCT
GATT DEFENSE OF ONE- WAY PREFERENCES BY DRAWING ON ARTICLES 18, 24
AND PART 4. FIRST, THOUGH THIS HAS BEEN ADVANCED AS POSSIBLE WAY
TO DEAL WITH ONE- WAY FTAS BETWEEN EC AND LDC' S, WE ASSUME IT WOULD
NOT RPT NOT BE APPLIED TO SPAIN AND ISRAEL WHICH ARE THE TWO COUN-
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 01189 161436 Z

TRIES WHERE REVERSE PREFERENCES HAVE REAL BITE, BOTH NOW AND IN NEAR- TERM FUTURE, IN PUTTING US EXPORTS AT COMPETITIVE DISADVANTAGE. SECOND, WHILE USING THIS DEVICE TO OBTAIN DE JURE EQUALITY FOR US EXPORTS TO A NUMBER OF MINOR LDC MARKETS MIGHT BE OF SOME SLIGHT ADVANTAGE TO US IN SHORT RUN, WE FEAR A LARGER LONGER- TERM RISK TO US TRADE COULD RESULT FROM OUR ACQUIESCENCE IN DISCRIMINATORY PREFERENTIAL ACCESS FOR PARTICULAR LDC PRODUCTS INTO ENLARGED

EC. FINALLY, THERE IS NOTHING IN ARTICLE 18 OR PART 4 THAT MODERATES OR OVERRIDES ARTICLE 24 OR AUTHORIZES DISCRIMINATION AMONG CPS AND WE THINK THERE ARE DANGEROUS IMPLICATIONS IN ACCEPTANCE OF SUGGESTION THAT THERE IS. (LDCS ALMOST CERTAINLY WOULD SEIZE ON THIS TO SUPPORT WIDE ARRAY OF DEMANDS IN MTN AND ELSEWHERE.)

3. MISSION THINKS IN ANY CASE US EFFORTS SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON THE SUBSTANCE OF EC- MEDITERRANEAN RELATIONS AND IMPACT THEREOF ON US EC AND US- MEDITERRANEAN RELATIONS. " GATTABILITY" SHOULD DEFINITELY TAKE A BACK SEAT TO EFFORTS RESOLVE THIS INCREASINGLY COMPLEX AND DIVISIVE ISSUE. IF EC CAN BE PERSUADED TO ADOPT A POLICY FOR MEDITERRANEAN LESS HOSTILE TO US ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL INTERESTS, WE NEED HAVE NO SERIOUS CONCERN ABOUT GATT RULES STANDING IN THE WAY OF A SETTLEMENT ACCEPTED BY BOTH US AND EC. RIMESTAD

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